



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR SEAN PARNELL


**Department of Education
& Early Development**

Division of Teaching and Learning Support

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To: Superintendents

cc: Federal Program Coordinators

 **From:** Paul Prussing, Deputy Director

Date: August 22, 2012

RE: Notice of Intent to Apply for Waivers of Title IA Related to SES and Choice

The Alaska Department of Education & Early Development plans to request waivers of certain provisions of Title I, Part A with regard to SES and Choice. Each waiver request is summarized below. This notice is to meet the notification requirements under Section 9401(b)(3)(A)(i) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. Districts are invited to submit comments to the department regarding this waiver no later than September 4, 2012. After that date, the department will submit the waiver requests with district comments to the US Department of Education (USED) for approval. Comments may be submitted to Margaret MacKinnon by email at Margaret.mackinnon@alaska.gov or by fax at 907-465-2989.

- 1. Waive the prohibition on the state approving an LEA that has been identified as being in improvement or corrective action as an SES provider.** The department will request this waiver to allow districts in improvement or corrective action to apply to be an approved Supplemental Educational Services (SES) provider. The Anchorage School District has been approved as an SES provider since September 2006 through a pilot program with the US Department of Education. The Kodiak Island Borough School District has applied to be an approved SES provider in 2012. We must apply for a waiver for the 2012-2013 school year to allow these districts the opportunity to be approved as an SES provider.
- 2. Allow LEAs to offer SES in the first year of school improvement and public school choice in the second year.** Alaska districts participated in this pilot program to allow districts to "flip-flop" the choice and SES requirement for Title I schools in the first and second years of improvement. The law currently requires districts to offer public school choice to students in Title I schools identified at Level 2 (the first year of school improvement) and requires districts to add SES as an option when the school reaches Level 3 (the second year of improvement). The waiver request will ask for the option to allow a district to offer SES when a title I school reaches Level 2 and to add public school choice as an option for parents when the school reaches Level 3.

The notice can be found on the EED website under "Alaska's Intent to Apply for Title I, Part A Waivers" at <http://education.alaska.gov/nclb/SES.html>. Please feel free to contact Margaret Mackinnon, Title I/NCLB Administrator, by phone at 907-465-2970 or by email at Margaret.mackinnon@alaska.gov if you have any questions regarding this waiver.